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5. (Twice Amended) A method for producing a graphite powder containing an amount of boron according to claim 1 comprising:

[a step of adding boron; wherein]

pulverizing a carbon material [pulverized] before and/or after carbonization is heat-treated at a temperature exceeding 1500°C for graphization[.];

B2
heating the [heat-treated] carbon material [is surface-processed] under a condition of scraping off the surface of the produced graphite powder; and [wherein]

heating the [surface-processed] carbon material [is heat-treated] in an inert gas at a temperature exceeding 800°C.

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6. (Amended) The method for producing a graphite powder according to claim 5 wherein heating [the heat treatment] under the condition of scraping off the surface of the produced graphite powder [is oxidating] includes oxidizing heat treatment.

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed on February 5, 2001. In the Office Action, Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by, or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over European Patent Application No. EP0762552A1 ("*Tamaki*"); and Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶2. In response to the § 112 rejection, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 4, 5 and 6. Applicants have further provided a clean version of the amended claims (without underlining to indicate added text and bracketing to indicate deleted text) attached hereto in the Appendix pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121. Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in a condition for allowance in view of the amendments and for the reasons set forth below.